

Conservancy District for repayment of cost of SOD modifications to Pueblo Dam.

Dated: October 13, 1998.

Wayne O. Deason,

Deputy Director, Program Analysis Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Arrowrock Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation, Boise, ID

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed rehabilitation of the outlet works at Arrowrock Dam on the Boise River near Boise, Idaho. The purpose of the proposed rehabilitation is to reduce the maintenance requirements of the existing outlet works, which are past their useful life, while meeting the operational needs of the dam for irrigation and flood control. The current proposal is to remove some of the existing outlet works and install 10 clamshell gates. This work will require operational changes during construction, including prolonged drawdown of Arrowrock Reservoir.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steve Dunn, telephone (208) 334-9844.

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office, 214 Broadway Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83702.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Arrowrock Dam is located on the Boise River, about 13 miles east of Boise, Idaho. Reclamation completed construction of the dam in 1915, and at that time it was the highest dam in the world. The downstream face of the dam was resurfaced and the height was increased by 5 feet in 1937.

Arrowrock Dam is one of three instream storage dams on the Boise River. Anderson Ranch Dam is located upstream of Arrowrock Dam on the South Fork Boise River, and Lucky Peak Dam, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is located on the Boise River downstream of Arrowrock and impounds water up against Arrowrock Dam when full. Arrowrock

Reservoir is operated for irrigation and flood control in combination with Anderson Ranch and Lucky Peak Reservoirs. In general, water is stored in Arrowrock Reservoir during the winter and spring according to predicted runoff and flood control requirements. Beginning in April water is released for irrigation from Arrowrock and Anderson Ranch Dams until early September when Lucky Peak Reservoir is drafted to meet irrigation demands. Lucky Peak water elevation is kept high through most of the summer for recreation.

The ensign valves controlling releases from Arrowrock Dam are the original valves installed in 1915. These valves have reached the end of their useful life, resulting in complex operational and maintenance concerns. Most of the valves have been damaged through prolonged use, and there is an increasing need for frequent inspection and repair. Three of the 10 ensign valves in the lower bank are no longer usable.

In order to ensure against malfunctioning valves, inspection and maintenance should be performed about every 5 years, which requires the reservoir level to be below the outlets. Under normal operations the upper row of ensign valves are out of the water by the end of summer and easily accessed. However, in order to dewater the lower bank of valves, the sluice gates must be used. There is some concern about use of the sluice gates since they too are over 80 years old and are in need of repair. If one of the sluice gates were to stick open, uncontrolled releases from Arrowrock would occur which could empty the reservoir.

The existing ensign valves also limit Arrowrock Dam's operational flexibility. The lower bank of ensign valves cannot be used under high water pressure when the reservoir is full. This reduces the dam's capability to release water for flood control operations in years with high runoff.

Reclamation has developed a proposal to replace the 10 lower ensign valves with "clamshell gates." The clamshell gates would allow releases at any reservoir level, providing more operational flexibility. The remaining upper row of 10 ensign valves and the sluice gates could be abandoned which would significantly reduce maintenance. The clamshell gates would be designed to allow inspection and maintenance without dewatering.

Reclamation has studied several other engineering alternatives to the proposal which involve different configurations of outlet control structures and rehabilitating the existing outlet works. Reclamation will also study operational

alternatives to be implemented during the construction phase. Other alternatives to the proposal may be developed through the public scoping process. It is expected that the presence of threatened bull trout in Arrowrock Reservoir and the requirements of the Endangered Species Act may also influence the range of alternatives. All reasonable alternatives which meet the purpose and need for the project will be evaluated in the EIS.

Federal, state and local agencies, tribes, and the general public are invited to participate in the EIS process. Scoping meetings to obtain input about concerns and issues associated with this proposal will be held but are not yet scheduled. Notification of meeting dates will be provided in a **Federal Register** notice, as well as through local media.

Anyone interested in more information concerning the EIS or who has information that may be useful in identifying significant environmental issues, should contact Mr. Dunn at the telephone number or address indicated above.

Dated: October 14, 1998.

Steven R. Clark,

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 731-TA-776-779 (Final)]

Certain Preserved Mushrooms From Chile, China, India, and Indonesia; Notice of Commission Determination to Conduct a Portion of the Hearing in Camera

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Closure of a portion of a Commission hearing to the public.

SUMMARY: Upon request of respondents Nature's Farm Products, Inc. and Nature's Farm Products (Chile) S.A. (collectively "NFP"), the Commission has determined to conduct a portion of its hearing in the above-captioned investigations scheduled for October 15, 1998, in camera. See Commission rules 207.23(d), 201.13(m) and 201.35(b)(3) (19 CFR §§ 207.23(d), 201.13(m) and 201.35(b)(3)). The remainder of the hearing will be open to the public. The Commission has determined that the seven-day advance notice of the change to a meeting was not possible. See Commission rule 201.35(a), (c)(1) (19 CFR 201.35(a), (c)(1)).